

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 OMB-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 096738

R 230430Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2402  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN TH  
SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REF: A) BANGKOK 22173

1. ACCORDING TO MR BODI CHUNNANAN, ONE OF THE BUDGET BUREAU REPS OF THE BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BSC), THE REVIEW OF THE BUDGET IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORY ALTHOUGH NOT AS QUICKLY AS HE WOULD WANT. THE FISCAL 1977 BUDGET PASSED ITS FIRST READING ON AUGUST 5 AND WAS THEN REFERRED TO A 35 MEMBER REVIEW COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF 31 MP'S AND FOUR OFFICIALS FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND THE BUDGET BUREAU (SEE REF A).

2. THE BSC HAS BEEN MEETING FOR SIX DAYS A WEEK, OFTEN UNTIL TEN IN THE EVENING REVIEWING THE BUDGET. BODI SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE'S SIZE WAS UNWIELDLY AND THE MEMBERS HAD A PENCHANT FOR LONG DISCUSSIONS OVER SMALL ITEMS IN THE BILL. FOR EXAMPLE, EACH MOTOR VEHICLE ASSIGNED TO A MINISTRY IS SUBJECTED TO PROLONGED DISCUSSION.

3. BODI CONFIRMED THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION IN THE COMMITTEE WITH THE BUDGET FOR  
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ISOC, THE RTG'S FOCAL POINT FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY. THE

GENERAL TENOR OF THE CRITICISM IS THE LACK OF ANY TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST DESPITE ALL THAT ISOC HAS SPENT. DESPITE THE CRITICISM IN THE COMMITTEE, BODI DID NOT THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY SIGNIFICANT CUT IN THE ISOC BUDGET. THE HARD TIME GIVEN TO ISOC WAS, HE IMPLIED, A WARNING THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD DO SOME RE-THINKING AS TO HOW TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE. BODI EXPECTED THAT THE MILITARY BUDGET ON WHICH THE COMMITTEE BEGAN WORK ON AUGUST 20 WOULD ALSO BE A TARGET OF CRITICISM AND THERE WOULD BE MINOR CUTS.

3. THE OVERWHELMING VIEW AMONG THE MEMBERS WAS THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE A RE-ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING IN RURAL AREAS. HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME SMALL RE-ALLOCATION WITHIN THE 1977 BUDGET, BUT THE CEILING OF 3.425 BILLION DOLLARS WOULD STAY. HE EXPECTED THAT THE BUDGET WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR ITS SECOND READING IN MID-SEPTEMBER.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUDGETS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO23578  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760322-0378  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 22173  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ACTIVITIES OF BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
**TAGS:** EFIN, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006